

(a) whether the TV Serial 'Chanakya' was served notice to cut short its number of episodes;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

(c) whether any representation has been made against the 'Saffron' colour of the flag and the war-cries of 'Har Har Mahadeo' depicted in the serial, if so, the reaction of the Government thereto, and

(d) whether some scenes from serial have been deleted, if so the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS)

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir This was done after it was found that the extension beyond the originally sanctioned 26 episodes had been conveyed to the producers without due authorisation from the competent authority. Later, however, after discussions with the producers the serial has been allowed to be completed in 47 episodes.

(c) According to Doordarshan, no specific complaint was received in this regard.

(d) According to Doordarshan, there was an unnecessary lengthy scene of saffron flags and slogans of Har Har Mahadev. The producer was requested to reduce the duration of the scene. The saffron flags and slogans did, however, figure in the final version that was telecast.

[English]

Effect of Decontrol of Steel on States

1961 SHRI E. AHAMED
SHRI ANBARASU ERA

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state

(a) whether recent decision of the Government to decontrol steel prices will adversely affect States including Kerala,

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure that steel prices do not fluctuate from State to State beyond a reasonable limit.

(c) whether any study of the impact on the States where there is no steel plant has been made in this regard, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH

MOHAN DEV) (a) and (b) Effect of deregulation of steel prices, as such would not be State-specific. After abolition of the freight equalisation scheme with effect from 16.1.92, the freight mechanism has been restructured. The freight ex-stockyard now payable by consumers, including those in Kerala, would be either the actual freight upto a stockyard or, Rs. 956 per tonne in the case of steel and Rs. 645 per tonne in the case of pig iron (till these are revised), whichever is lower. State-wise price differentials, on this account, would thus be limited to these ceilings and the actual freights for different States.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Posting of Technical Employees to Non-Technical and Vice Versa in Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd

1962 SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state